

**MINUTES OF THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2009 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CHAMBERS OF TOWN HALL, LOCATED
AT 775 N. MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kilvinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Kilvinger, Smith, Woolridge, Celaya, Raasch, Hawkins, Brown

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ray Hartzel, Interim Parks Director, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Call to the Public for Public Comment on items that appear on the December 7, 2009 Town Council Agenda.

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING AND PRESENTATIONS

Public Hearing on Annexation No. 2009-09 more commonly known as the Dobson Farms Annexation, consisting of approximately 3,123 acres located in an area northwest of the Town core generally bounded by Arizona Farms Road to the south, Quail Run Lane to the west, a portion of Bella Vista Road and Judd Road to the north, and a portion of Cooper and Felix Road alignment to the east.

Mr. Mark Eckhoff, Planning Director, stated that the Town had previously worked on an annexation called the Arizona Farms Annexation for the same area. He discussed the previous attempt to annex, citing that a few of the major property owners dropped out of the annexation. He said the new annexation has a few main owners such as SRP, Freedom Farms and the Dobson family.

Mr. Eckhoff noted that there was a minor change to the boundary. He said that in Section 4, along Bella Vista, there are 5 acres which are being proposed to be removed from this annexation. He said there was a recent land transaction where SRP had acquired almost all of the land in Section 24, but sold back a 5 acre parcel to the Nevitt family. He briefly discussed plans for Section 24. He said there is a .119 acre difference at Attaway and Arizona Farms Rd. When an annexation is proposed, and before the signatures are collected, the boundaries can be decreased.

Mr. Eckhoff highlighted some of the things happening in the area.

Councilmember Brown questioned the fiscal impact to Police, Fire and Sanitation.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that there are few residents in the proposed area. He said the majority of the land is vacant desert or agricultural; however, it does increase the service area. He added that the potential for economic development is great in that area because it is geared for potential employment opportunities.

Vice-Mayor Smith asked if the SRP Abel Substation is included in the annexation; and if so, how long will it take the Fire Department to respond to the area.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the substation is included in the annexation area.

Paul Carbajal, Fire Chief, stated if the area is annexed, the response time will be faster because the 9-1-1 call will be routed to the Fire Department Alarm Room rather than to Rural Metro and then to the Florence Fire Department per the Aid Agreement.

Vice-Mayor Smith asked how the annexation would affect Public Works.

Wayne Costa, Public Works Director, stated that 10 miles of roads and right-of-ways will be added, which equates to one man-year or \$50,000/year labor and minor material costs. He said that Sanitation will have approximately six additional pickups.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that Dobson Farms and Freedom Farms entities have offered land to the Town for new sites for Fire and Police. The Dobson development has offered land for a regional park as well. He added that the requirements remain through the development agreement process as well as through the zoning process.

Councilmember Hawkins asked about the financial impact to the Police Department.

Himanshu Patel, Town Manager, briefly described the areas currently being patrolled as well as the additional area through the proposed annexation. He said that the police positions are based on population, and the area is mostly vacant land.

Mayor Kilvinger opened the public hearing, there being no public comment, Mayor Kilvinger closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing on Kokopelli Moon Saloon's application for personal transfer of a Series 06 (Bar) Liquor License; and recommendation of Approval/Disapproval on said application for business located at 225 N. Main Street, Florence Arizona.

Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk, stated that the application was posted in accordance with A.R.S. State Statutes. She said that the Town received one written protest from Pedro Guerrero and Dixie Legler.

Mayor Kilvinger opened the public hearing, there being no public comment, Mayor Kilvinger closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Brown asked if the Town has a way to handle the patio and excessive noise.

James Mannato, Town Attorney, answered that the Town has a noise ordinance in place that applies to both private residents and business owners.

On motion of Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Brown and carried to forward a recommendation of approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control for a Transfer of a Series 06 Liquor License for Kokopelli Moon Saloon located at 225 N. Main Street, Florence, Arizona.

Presentation by Mike Hutchinson and Roc Arnett regarding the Superstition Vistas Project.

Mike Hutchinson, Director of Superstition Vistas Project, provided the Council with an overview on the Superstition Vistas Project. He gave an update on the program and said the next steps the group will work on will be to craft a preferred scenario, develop best practices and strategies, pursue Arizona Land Trust Reform, and develop a Strategic Plan for moving forward.

Presentation by Johnson Utilities regarding the proposed incorporation of San Tan Valley.

George Johnson, Johnson Utilities, recommended that the Council consider the drawbacks of annexing the San Tan Valley area. He said the Town should be working toward a common cause and in a positive manner. Mr. Johnson said that they need to support the Town of Florence and that incorporation is the wrong thing. He said he would like to help with the railroad. He closed by saying that instead of fighting for or against incorporation, it is important to put business dollars to work for supporting the citizens.

Presentation of Years of Service Award to Lisa Garcia for 15 years of service to the Town of Florence.

Mayor Kilvinger presented a Years of Service Award to Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk, for 15 years of service to the Town of Florence. She briefly discussed Ms. Garcia's history with the Town. She thanked her for her service to the community and said she was an asset to the community.

CONSENT: All items indicated by an (*) will be handled by a single vote as part of the consent agenda, unless a Councilmember or a member of the public objects at the time the agenda item is called.

- a. ***Authorization to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Pinal County for Special Security Service at Pinal County Treasurer's Office.**

- b. ***Authorization for staff to forward a recommendation of approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control on Caliente Casa De Sol's Special Event License Application for a New Year's Eve Dance on December 31, 2009.**
- c. ***Approval of the minutes of the November 9, 2009 and November 16, 2009 Town Council meetings.**
- d. ***Receive and file the following board and commission minutes:**
 - i. **May 20, 2009 Joint Use Library Advisory Board minutes.**

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Raasch and carried to approve the items on the consent agenda as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the possibility of entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Coolidge to expand Cotton Express transit services to Florence.

Jess Knudson, Assistant to the Town Manager, stated that a draft IGA is being presented that identifies both routes and costs. He said one route would be for the downtown core and the second route would be for senior services for dial a rides and door to door services. He said the total cost to the Town would be \$160,000 paid on a monthly basis (\$145,000 is operating costs and \$15,000 for capital). The budget costs depict the budget that both Coolidge and Florence are comfortable with. He said if the agreement is entered into, Florence will have 90 days to provide Coolidge with notice of change of service if it is more than 10 percent. He added that either party may terminate the agreement with 180 days notice. The agreement shall be for an initial term of two years and may be renewed for two additional periods of two years each.

Mr. Patel stated that Florence and Coolidge have worked together very well and have developed strong working relations. Coolidge staff has been instrumental in helping Florence staff in understanding transit in Florence. The economic situation that the Town faces is a factor that needs to be considered when making this decision; as well as the impact that State shared revenue will have on the Town. He said that last year the Town expenditures were \$700,000 over revenues. The Town has been advised that revenues will be reduced by approximately 25 percent (or \$1,000,000 or \$1,200,000). He said this is an incredible opportunity for the Town and those who do not have means of transportation; however, there are challenges and concerns for the future outcome. He said once you introduce the service, it will be necessary to maintain the service. Once this service is introduced it needs to exist because people rely on the service. He stated that it is challenging for him to consider starting new programming when he is considering balancing the budget. In order to implement the transit program, services

that are provided through the Senior Center will be eliminated. Another consideration is that LTAF monies are up for grabs and the Town may not receive them in the future.

Vice-Mayor Smith asks for the costs of the Senior Center Program.

Mr. Patel states that \$50,000 is what the Town expends. The Town uses \$35,000 in LTAF for the program. He said that the Pinal Rides program was a pilot program that is no longer provided. It was a two day a week program.

Vice-Mayor Smith cannot support the program at this time.

Mr. Knudson stated that the Coolidge bus system is heavily utilized by the students.

Councilmember Brown stated that she would like to see a survey to show the level of ridership before staff moves forward.

Councilmember Raasch stated he did not feel that the economy was right for moving forward on this project.

Resolution No. 1216-09: Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, ORDERING THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHIN FLORENCE, ARIZONA DESCRIBED AS PART OF THE CENTRAL AVENUE DEDICATED RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED IN THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 9 EAST, GILA AND SALT RIVER BASELINE AND MERIDIAN, FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the request is made by the Florence Unified School District (FUSD) for abandonment of a portion of Central Avenue. It will provide a back door entrance to the school, and not a public right-of-way. The Town staff is supportive of the request.

Councilmember Celaya inquired asked about access to the parking lot. He asked if the residents in the area are aware that it may become an alternate access to the school.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that there is some access to the parking lot; however, the Town will work with the FUSD regarding access and circulation plans for ways to move the traffic and limit the congestion and excess traffic. He said he is unsure if the FUSD had done any work to alert the residents in the area. He stated that the FUSD owns land east and west of Central up to Adamsville Road.

Councilmember Brown asked if the gates will be remained unlocked.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that some discussions have occurred regarding the design of the area.

Mr. Wayne Costa, Public Works Director, stated that the Town has asked the FUSD to incorporate traffic calming techniques (speed humps) to help reduce the speed. He

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said a traffic analysis was done. The FUSD was asked to barricade the alley between Central and Willow because there is no requirement for there to be access there. Mr. Costa discussed drainage issues.

On motion of Councilmember Raasch, seconded by Vice-Mayor Smith and carried to approve Resolution No. 1216-09.

Resolution No. 1217-09: Discussion/Approval/Disapproval A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT FOR ANTHEM AT MERRILL RANCH UNIT 18; REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ASSURANCE OR WITHHOLDING OF RECORDATION TO SECURE THE SATISFACTORY CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND DEDICATION OF REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS; ESTABLISHING A DEADLINE FOR REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS TO BE COMPLETED; AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION BY THE TOWN MANAGER OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS. (PZC-73-09-FP)

Mr. Eckhoff stated the Final Plat request is for Anthem at Merrill Ranch Unit 18. He briefly explained the location of the final plat. He said the plat is consistent with other plats in the area and that there are 102 lots and 13 tracts in this final plat.

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Raasch, and carried to adopt Resolution No. 1217-09

Resolution No. 1218-09: Discussion/Approval/Disapproval A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, RECOGNIZING THE LOOP ROAD WITHIN THE POSTON SQUARE SUBDIVISION IN FLORENCE, ARIZONA AS POSTON CIRCLE.

Mr. Eckhoff stated that the Town is requesting to have the official records reflect the loop road name to be Poston Circle rather than Poston Drive as recorded in the plat. He said that residents recognize the area as Poston Circle.

On motion of Councilmember Woolridge, seconded by Councilmember Brown and carried to adopt Resolution No. 1218-09.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC/COUNCIL RESPONSE: Call to the Public for Public Comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Town Council. Council rules limit public comment to three minutes. Individual Council Members may respond to criticism made by those commenting, may ask staff to review a matter raised or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of Council shall not discuss or take action on any matter during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.

Tom Rankin reminded everyone that 57 years ago Pearl Harbor was bombed. He said that there has been hardly anything in the press. Mr. Rankin warned the Council to beware of Trojan horses. He said the Superstition Vistas Project is a Trojan horse. He

asked Council to talk to the Town Manager on how revenues will be affected if San Tan incorporates. He asked that Adamsville Road be fixed. He said the hospital is hoping to open in early 2010. He stated that he is not an employee of the hospital but he is an advocate of the project. He thanked Wayne Costa and Mark Eckhoff for their assistance on the hospital.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL

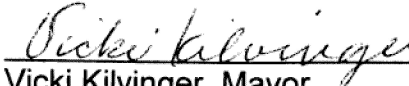
Councilmembers Brown and Celaya, as well as Vice-Mayor Smith thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the electrical parade.

Vice-Mayor Smith thanked staff for assistance with the Jr. Parada Parade and Rodeo.

Mayor Kilvinger stated that there is an amazing warmth in the Town. She is very proud of the dedication of the Staff and the Council, and is very proud to be the Mayor of the Town of Florence. She said that the Town does not have a surge in monies; however, the Town has a surge in pride and generous attitude of the Florence citizens. She reminisced about the Cinco De Mayo and Founder's Day events and misses those events. She thanked Lina Austin for the fine work with the Chamber. She congratulated the Staff, the Council, and the citizens. She said that Florence is a Town that makes volunteer work as important as it can be.


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kilvinger adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.



Vicki Kilvinger, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk

I certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Florence Town Council meeting held on December 7, 2009 and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.



Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk

